



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/775,847	02/10/2004	Robert L. Ponziani	13-DV-132639	1061

7590 09/30/2005

General Electric Co.
One Neumann Way, H17
Cincinnati, OH 45215

EXAMINER

KIM, TAE JUN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3746

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/775,847

Applicant(s)

PONZIANI ET AL.

Examiner

Ted Kim

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/10/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is required to update the copending application information in the first paragraph of the specification.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 10-12 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 7-9 of copending Application No. 10/775,876

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

4. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims are broader than the claims of 10/775,876 which contain all the elements of the instant invention. Hence the more specific claims

would “anticipate” the broader claims of the instant application. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Such broader claims in the application can also be said to “dominate” the more narrow claims in the parent which contain additional elements. *In Re Braithwaite*, 154 USPQ 38 at 40 (CCPA 1967).

Instant application 10. Apparatus, comprising: a) a gas turbine engine having a frame or casing having a potential defined as DC ground; b) an igniter in the engine; c) a supply cable which supplies current pulses to the igniter; d) a conductive shield around the supply cable, which connects to a housing of the igniter, wherein the shield and the housing are connected to said ground potential; e) an exciter which provides said current to the igniter, and which receives return current from the igniter through i) said shield, and ii) a second path; f) a detector adjacent said housing, which detects one or more of the following: i) current pulses in the cable; ii) current pulses in the housing; or iii) differential between current pulses in the cable and current pulses in the housing.	10/775,876 7. Apparatus, comprising: a) a gas turbine engine having a frame or casing having a potential defined as DC ground; b) an igniter in the engine; c) a supply cable which supplies current pulses to the igniter; d) a conductive shield around the supply cable, which wherein the shield connects to a housing of the igniter, and the housing are connected to said ground potential; an exciter which provides said current to the igniter, and which receives return current from the igniter through said shield, and a second path; a detector comprising a coil and adjacent said housing, which detects one or more of the following: current pulses in the cable; current pulses in the housing; or differential between current pulses the cable and current pulses the housing.
---	--

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3746

6. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dooley (5,587,630) in view of either Klimstra et al (5,491,416) and/or Owens (5,508,618).

Dooley teaches a gas turbine engine with an igniter 16 surrounded by a housing and fed by a power cable 18, 19 which is surrounded by a conductive shield. Dooley further show the shield (ground of 18) connected to the housing of the spark igniter 16 (see Fig.

4). Dooley does not specifically teach a coil detector for detecting current in the cable without contacting the cable and issuing a signal in the present of a spark and delivering the signal to a pilot station. Klimstra et al teach an igniter 1 and a coil detector for detecting current in the cable, which produces signals when sparks are generated. Owens teaches a gas turbine engine system with an igniter with a current detector 30 and a issued signal, where the detector can be located at the conductor 24 or even the igniter (see col. 3, lines 47+). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ a current detector, to detect the presence of spark. As for issuing the signal to the pilot station, this would be entirely obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in order to allow the pilot to monitor the status of the engines.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Ted Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-4829. The

Art Unit: 3746

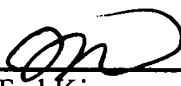
Examiner can be reached on regular business hours before 5:00 pm, Monday to Thursday and every other Friday.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application is assigned are

571-273-8300 for Regular faxes and 571-273-8300 for After Final faxes.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Thorpe, can be reached at 571-272-4444.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist of Technology Center 3700, whose telephone number is 703-308-0861. General inquiries can also be directed to the Patents Assistance Center whose telephone number is 800-786-9199. Furthermore, a variety of online resources are available at <http://www.uspto.gov/main/patents.htm>

	
Ted Kim	Telephone 571-272-4829
Primary Examiner	Fax (Regular) 571-273-8300
September 27, 2005	Fax (After Final) 571-273-8300
Technology Center 3700 Receptionist	Telephone 703-308-0861
Patents Assistance Center	Telephone 800-786-9199